

# SELECTED BEST PRACTICES for SUSTAINING SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAMS

The table below represents best practices that worked successfully in the American Association of Community Colleges service learning grant project. The 15 participating colleges implemented these strategies on their campuses and in their communities between 1994 and 1997. No single college used every one of these ideas, but found a combination of strategies affecting students, faculty, institutions, and community was most useful when tailored to individual college situations and culture.

## *SELECTED BEST PRACTICES for SUSTAINING SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAMS*

STUDENTS	FACULTY	INSTITUTION	COMMUNITY
Start small	Start small	Start small	Start small
Hold an orientation	Start with “green light” people	Start with “green light” people	Hold an orientation
Involve students in process	Hold an orientation	Create advisory boards	Create advisory boards
Use a team approach	Use service learning as a teaching strategy	Connect to existing initiatives	Develop resource handbooks
Empower students to do projects alone	Focus on academic rigor	Write service learning into course competencies	Develop public relations
Organize student learning communities	Offer mini-grants	Combine student services with academic affairs	Celebrate local culture
Hold group reflection sessions	Offer training institutes	Use a team approach	Make government/ corporate connections
Offer 4th-credit option	Organize faculty learning circles	Combine structure and flexibility	Fund service scholarships
Track outcomes	Develop resource handbooks	Co-locate with volunteer center	Create spinoff partnerships
Note service learning on transcripts, in catalogs	Develop contracts	Develop public relations	Connect with Learn & Serve K–12 programs
Identify student ambassadors	Suggest faculty perform service as part of orientation	Identify student ambassadors	Connect with Tech Prep
Let students be advocates	Appoint a faculty coordinator	Hire student assistants	Identify student ambassadors
Conduct pre/post surveys	Use a team approach	Apply student fees to support program	Recognize and celebrate
Recognize and celebrate	Obtain faculty senate support	Consider service learning as accreditation criteria	
	Conduct pre/post surveys	Make presentations to board of trustees	
	Recognize and celebrate	Network with other colleges	
		Recognize and celebrate	